

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Yugoslavia/Hungary	REPORT	
SUBJECT	The Attila Jozsef Hungarian Cultural Association	DATE DISTR.	27 September 1955
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. The Attila Jozsef Hungarian Cultural Association was organized in Belgrade in 1952. The purpose of this association was to unite the Yugoslav citizens of Hungarian nationality into one group and to prevent them from being influenced by Hungarian Cominform broadcasts, as well as Western broadcasts. The association, it was hoped, would provide its members with a "healthy" Hungarian cultural life. 25X1
2. By 1953 the organization had about five hundred members. During the course of that year the UDB started to take an active interest in the association and instigated the enrollment of about one hundred fifty Communists who were charged with spying on the activities of the earlier members. The accusations made by these Communists eventually reached the Central Committee of the Federation of Communists of Serbia. 1
3. During the period 1952 - 1953 there were no formal contacts between the association and the various (sic) Hungarian missions in Belgrade, although occasionally anti-Tito, pro-Soviet leaflets were in evidence. These leaflets allegedly emanated from the Hungarian Legation in Belgrade. Later, however, as the relations between Yugoslavia and the Cominform countries became better, members of the association would visit the Hungarian Legation on the Hungarian national holidays. These visits were reciprocated by members of the Hungarian Legation.
4. The Attila Jozsef Association is under the control of the Central Committee of the Federation of Communists of Serbia through the appropriate section for national minorities. The UDB also maintains its control through its counterpart to this section. The organization is financed by the Union of the Cultural and Educational Societies in Belgrade. Furniture and equipment was provided from the inventory of the Government of FR Serbia. The 25X1

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current membership is now approximately five hundred persons. Offices are located at No. 2 Marshal Tito , Belgrade, where there are three offices, a library and a meeting hall which holds c. one hundred fifty persons. Prior approval of the police is required for each meeting. The organization is in close contact with Hungarian groups in the Vojvodina, and reciprocal visits often take place.

1 Comment: There are more than 5,000 Hungarians in Belgrade alone.

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